

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a software configuration in an image delivery system having a storage device, the method comprising: processing a component list associated with a system to be built, the component list containing a essential portion and a non-essential portion, performing a key generating function on the essential portion of the component list to generate a key associated with the software configuration, and using the generated key to determine if the software configuration exists on the storage device.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

transferring an image associated with the software configuration to one or more target devices if the essential component list associated with each of the one or more target devices produces the generated key when the key generating function is performed on the associated each essential component list, and generating a new image associated with the software configuration if the essential component list associated with each of the one or more target devices fails to produce the generated key when the key generating function is performed on the associated each essential component list.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the essential component list includes software-related components.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the essential component list includes software-related components.

7. (Currently amended) A method of operating an image delivery system for delivering a disk image to a computer readable media associated with a target computer system, the image delivery system having a storage device, the method comprising:

generating a bill of materials associated with the target computer system from an order entry portion of the image delivery system,

dividing the bill of materials into an essential portion and a non-essential portion, the essential portion including all hardware components and software components in the bill of materials that have an impact on generation of the disk image for the target computer system,

sorting the essential portion of the bill of materials into alphanumeric order to produce a sorted essential portion of the bill of materials,

performing a key generating function on the sorted essential portion of the bill of materials to generate a unique key identifying the disk image for the target computer system,

using the generated key to determine if the disk image exists on the storage device,

selecting, from the storage device, a baseline image which the disk image is able to be layered upon as an incremental image if the disk image does not exist, and incorporating updates into the disk image if the updates are available.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

transferring the disk image to the target computer system if the disk image exists on the storage device, and

generating a new disk image corresponding to a software configuration of the target computer system if the disk image does not exist on the storage device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the essential portion of the bill of materials includes software-related components.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the essential portion of the bill of materials includes software-related components.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the essential portion of the bill of materials is sorted into ascending alphanumeric sequence.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the essential portion of the bill of materials is sorted into ascending alphanumeric sequence.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a software configuration in an image delivery system having a storage device, the method comprising: generating a bill of materials associated with a target computer system from an order entry portion of the image delivery system, sorting the bill of materials into alphanumeric order, performing a key generating function on at least a portion of the bill of materials to generate a key associated with the software configuration, and using the generated key to determine if the software configuration exists on the storage device.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of: transferring an image associated with the software configuration to one or more of the target computer system if the at least a portion of the bill of materials associated with each of the one or more of the target computer systems produces the generated key when the key generating function is performed on the associated each at least a portion of the bill of materials, and generating a new image associated with the software configuration if the at least a portion of the bill of materials associated with the each of the one or more target computer system fails to produce the generated key when the key generating function is performed on the associated each at least a portion of the bill of materials.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the essential component list includes software-related components.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the essential component list includes software-related components.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the bill of materials is sorted into ascending alphanumeric sequence.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the bill of materials is sorted into ascending alphanumeric sequence.

23. (Withdrawn) A computerized system for identifying a software configuration for image delivery, the system comprising: a processor, a computer readable medium capable of being read by the processor, and a plurality of computer instructions on the computer readable medium, the plurality of computer instructions executable by the processor, the plurality of computer instructions for causing the processor to: generate a bill of materials associated with a target computer system from an order entry portion of the image delivery system, sort the bill of materials into alphanumeric order, perform a key generating function on at least a portion of the bill of materials to generate a key associated with the software configuration, and using the generated key to determine if the software configuration exists on the storage device.

24. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to: transfer an image associated with the software configuration to one or more of the target computer system if the at least a portion of the bill of materials associated with each of the one or more of the target computer systems produces the generated key when the key generating function is performed on the associated each at least a portion of the bill of materials, and generate a new image associated with the software configuration if the at least a portion of the bill of materials associated with the each of the one or more target computer system fails to produce the generated key when the key generating function is performed on the associated each at least a portion of the bill of materials.

25. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

26. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 24, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

27. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the essential component list includes software-related components.

28. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 24, wherein the essential component list includes software-related components;

29. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the bill of materials is sorted into ascending alphanumeric sequence.

30. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 24, wherein the bill of materials is sorted into ascending alphanumeric sequence.

31. (Currently amended) A computerized system for identifying a disk image of a software configuration for image delivery of a disk image to a computer readable media associated with a target computer system, the computerized system comprising:

a storage device;

a processor,

a computer readable medium capable of being read by the processor, and

a plurality of computer instructions on the computer readable medium, the plurality of computer instructions executable by the processor, the plurality of computer instructions for causing the processor to:

generate a bill of materials associated with the target computer system from an order entry portion of the computerized system,

divide the bill of materials into an essential portion and a non-essential portion, the essential portion including all hardware components and software components in the bill of materials that have an impact on generation of the disk image for the target computer system,

sort the essential portion of the bill of materials into alphanumeric order to produce a sorted essential portion of the bill of materials,

perform a key generating function on the sorted essential portion of the bill of materials to generate a unique key identifying the disk image for the target computer system,

use the generated key to determine if the disk image exists on the storage device,

select, from the storage device, a baseline image which the disk image is able to be layered upon as an incremental image if the disk image does not exist, and include updates into the disk image if the updates are available.

32. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 31, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

transfer the disk image to the target computer system if the disk image exists on the storage device, and

generate a new disk image corresponding to a software configuration of the target computer system if the disk image does not exist on the storage device.

33. (Original) The computerized system of claim 31, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

34. (Original) The computerized system of claim 32, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

35. (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 31, wherein the essential portion of the bill of materials includes software-related components.

36. (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 32, wherein the essential portion of the bill of materials includes software-related components.

37. (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 31, wherein the essential portion of the bill of materials is sorted into ascending alphanumeric sequence.

38. (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 32, wherein the essential portion of the bill of materials is sorted into ascending alphanumeric sequence.

39. (Withdrawn) A computerized system for identifying a software configuration for image delivery, the computerized system comprising: a processor, a computer readable medium capable of being read by the processor, and a plurality of computer instructions on the computer readable medium, the plurality of computer instructions executable by the processor, the plurality of computer instructions for causing the processor to: process a component list associated with a system to be built, the component list containing a essential portion and a non-essential portion, perform a key generating function on the essential portion of the component list to generate a key associate⁹ with the software configuration, and use the generated key to determine if the software configuration exists on the-storage device.

40. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 39, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to: transfer an image associated with the software configuration to one or more target devices if the essential component list associated with each of the one or more target devices produces the generated key when the key generating function is performed on the associated each essential component list, and generate a new image associated with the software configuration if the essential component list associated with each of the one or more target devices fails to produce

the generated key when the key generating function is performed on the associated each essential component list.

41. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 39, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

42. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 40, wherein the key generating function includes a 128-bit hash algorithm.

43. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 39, wherein the essential component list includes software-related components.

44. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 40, wherein the essential component list includes software-related components.